

Remarks

The examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the new claims above and comments which follow.

Currently, the examiner is examining the claims of Group II, directed to the method. That corresponds to claim 82 through 91 above. The claims of Group I correspond to claims 78 through 81 above, and have been withdrawn from consideration. Just to unquestionably preserve the applicant's right to a divisional application directed to those claims, the claims are set forth above but, as required, are identified as being directed to Group I.

In the office action, the examiner has objected to claim 68 and rejected claim 75 as being indefinite. The new claims do not share those problems. Also, in the office action, the examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over two of the cited references. Reconsideration is requested.

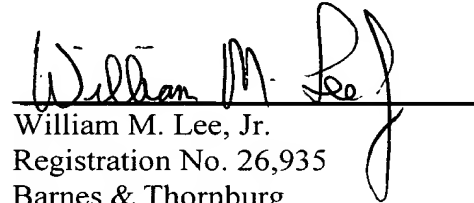
The new claims above correspond to those that have been allowed in the corresponding U.K. application and are expected to be allowed in the corresponding European application. The claims are directed to a washing machine and method having a fine mesh filter through which the washing liquid is forced into the enclosure so as to produce finely dispersed or diffused droplets forming a mist or vapor. This has been found by the inventor to greatly improve the cleaning of clothing, and is a feature neither shown or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. It is therefore submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Given the above, the examiner's further and favorable reconsideration is urged.

As this response is being submitted during the sixth month following the examiner's office action, an appropriate petition for extension of time is also submitted herewith.

June 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped "L" and a distinct "Jr." at the end.

William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)